

SECRET



Directorate of Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency

Mr. Luigi Einaudi, Director
Office of Policy Planning Coordination/
ARA, Room 6913A, State

IX1128

2/25/88

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: NOV 2003

(b) (1)
(b) (3)

SECRET

CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PLAN

WEEKLY UPDATE

TLC

~~SECRET~~



Washington, D. C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PLAN WEEKLY UPDATE

25 February 1988

This weekly Situation Report is prepared by the [redacted] Office of African and Latin American Analysis. This paper was coordinated with the Directorate of Operations. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to [redacted] [redacted] ALA, on [redacted] [redacted]

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PLAN
WEEKLY UPDATE
25 February 1988

Perspective: Foreign Ministers Discuss Verification

The democracies reaffirmed their control of the verification process at the Central American Foreign Ministers meeting in San Salvador last week by turning back Sandinista proposals to reinvolve the Contadora countries. The Ministers agreed to defer decisions on which countries or international organizations would be chosen to give technical aid on verification until their next meeting in mid-March. The National Reconciliation Commissions were directed to prepare reports verifying compliance with commitments to democratization and national dialogue.

Honduran Foreign Minister Lopez told [] that he was pleased with the meeting, since he had gained time for Tegucigalpa on the verification question. Lopez noted, for example, that Nicaraguan Foreign Minister D'Escoto had warmly endorsed the Honduran proposal presented to the OAS last November to create Nicaragua-Honduras and Nicaragua-El Salvador border commissions. Lopez believes that it would take a minimum of six months to implement the idea. []

The democracies probably will be able to defuse anticipated Nicaraguan efforts at Hamburg to line up support for the involvement of West European and Contadora countries in verification, citing the Central American agreement to defer action until the next Foreign Ministers meeting. Nevertheless, []

[] a separate, ministerial level EC-Contadora meeting is scheduled after the Hamburg meeting which will give Sandinista allies another forum to advocate a Western European role in verification. []

The Central American Foreign Ministers also agreed to hold new talks on security issues--arms and troop levels, foreign military advisers, and maneuvers--by 15 March. The democracies have made no progress in devising a joint strategy, however, and they may find it difficult to counter any new Nicaraguan initiatives. []

~~SECRET~~

Developments This Week

Democratization

- A Nicaraguan diplomat recently admitted that the concessions Ortega announced at the January summit in San Jose were only intended to sway the US Congressional vote on rebel aid, and the regime will proceed with consolidating control, []
- The official Sandinista party newspaper charged La Prensa of conspiring with the US Embassy in Managua to subvert the new monetary law. []
- Nicaraguan security forces interrogated Catholic lay workers in Esteli Department, accusing them of collaborating with the insurgents []
[] Church workers said that the sandinistas also were searching private homes at night looking for youth to enlist in the military.
[]

Cease-Fire/Amnesty

- Nicaraguan Cardinal Obando, citing distrust between the Sandinistas and the insurgents, suspended cease-fire negotiations last Friday when the government failed to endorse his proposal. The following day, however, President Ortega said the regime had not rejected the Cardinal's proposal. Both sides say they are willing to renew talks, although a member of the rebel negotiating team said the insurgents want the talks to continue in Managua. []

National Reconciliation

- On 17 February, Nicaraguan Cardinal Obando agreed to consider a request by representatives from the alliance of 14 opposition parties to reconvene the National Reconciliation Commission, even though he considers the Commission's task completed, []
[] The parties also asked Obando to name a mediator to help restart the national dialogue. The Cardinal cautioned that he could not appoint a mediator without the approval of both the government and opposition parties. []

~~SECRET~~

International Verification

- Nicaragua recently asked Canada to send a verification team to certify Sandinista compliance with the Central American peace plan, [redacted]. The Canadians requested more details. On 21 February, President Ortega publicly proposed that Canada, Spain, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Contadora and support group countries, and the UN and OAS form a new verification commission to certify each Central American country's compliance with the peace accord. [redacted]

Aid to Insurgents

- Nothing to report. [redacted]

Other Developments

- Two independent Nicaraguan radio stations have been forced to go off the air temporarily because of electric power surges and blackouts, [redacted]. La Prensa is forced to use emergency generators up to eight hours a day. With the new monetary reform, the papers also must meet mandatory salary increases for the staff and a 50 percent rise in the price of newsprint. [redacted]
- A Nicaraguan opposition party leader told US Embassy officials that the Sandinistas' offer of cars and land to certain members of the alliance of 14 opposition parties were aimed at undermining the group's fragile unity. [redacted]

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

NICARAGUAN CEASE-FIRE AND VERIFICATION PROPOSALS

Fundamental differences over political issues have impeded cease-fire negotiations between the Sandinistas and the Nicaraguan rebels since they began in December. The insurgents are demanding political reforms before they agree to lay down their weapons, while the Sandinistas insist that the war must end before rebels join the political process.

19 September 1987

Nicaragua presents detailed proposal for creation of political and security committees at the meeting in Managua of the International Verification Commission set up by the August 1987 peace accord.

22 September 1987

The Nicaraguan government announces a troop pullback from certain zones to permit cease-fires with local guerrilla commanders. Within three weeks, the government sets up some 200 local and regional peace committees in an effort to induce the guerrillas to accept amnesty. Meanwhile, the Sandinistas maintain their opposition to meeting with the insurgent leadership.

5 November 1987

On the day of the deadline for complying with the democratization and cease-fire provisions of the peace agreement, President Ortega announces he will agree to indirect cease-fire talks with the rebels through an intermediary.

13 November 1987

Nicaragua announces 11 point cease-fire plan. The Sandinistas offer to suspend offensive operations for two weeks to permit the insurgents to assemble in three zones by 5 December. The rebels, in turn, would surrender their arms by 5 January 1988 upon international verification of government compliance with peace commitments. The insurgents would be permitted humanitarian aid if delivered by an international agency.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

25 November 1987

The anti-Sandinista insurgents propose a cease-fire from 8 December to 17 January. At the outset of the cease-fires, the government would be required to lift the state of emergency, decree a full amnesty, take measures to democratize, and dissolve Sandinista neighborhood committees and paramilitary security groups. The insurgents propose Cardinal Obando as mediator.

3-4 December 1987

After conducting separate talks with the government and insurgents in Santo Domingo, Cardinal Obando calls for two short cease-fires to honor a religious holiday and Christmas. He also calls for the government to make democratic reforms. The insurgents accept Obando's proposal in principle, but the Sandinistas say all US and Honduran aid to the rebels must cease before they would accept.

21 December 1987

A second round of indirect talks in Santo Domingo is suspended when the insurgents refuse the Sandinista demand that the rebels meet with the government's foreign advisers. The guerrillas agree to do so only if government representatives also participated. Obando publicly endorses direct talks before the meeting.

24-25 December 1987

Both sides accept a Christmas truce and accuse the other of violating it.

16 January 1988

President Ortega announces at the conclusion of the Central American summit in San Jose that he will immediately lift the state of emergency and conduct direct talks with the insurgents. A full amnesty would be implemented after conclusion of a cease-fire agreement.

21 January 1988

Nicaragua publicizes diplomatic note to the eight Contadora countries proposing that Contadora representatives visit Managua on 27 January to verify steps taken to comply with the summit agreement. Minister of Education Cardenal

UNCLASSIFIED

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

begins trip to all Contadora capitals to deliver personal letters from President Ortega.

26 January-2 February 1988

President Ortega visits Spain, Italy, Norway, and Sweden to request their participation in verification of Nicaraguan compliance with peace commitments.

28 January 1988

The Nicaraguan Government and rebel Miskito Indian leader Brooklyn Rivera sign a communique in Nicaragua which they invite Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Norway, and Switzerland to be witnesses to a cease-fire agreement and to lend moral and material support to development on the Atlantic Coast.

28-29 January 1988

At the first round of direct talks between the Sandinistas and rebels in San Jose, the insurgents endorse the Nicaraguan internal opposition's proposal for 17 constitutional amendments and propose that the opposition participate in the talks. The rebels also propose that the negotiations be concluded within 60 days, during which time both sides would not acquire additional military supplies. A new Sandinista plan would permit the insurgents to keep their arms for a short period until international verification of Nicaraguan compliance. It also proposes creation of an additional verification mechanism--composed of the Contadora countries and international political parties--to guarantee political rights to insurgents accepting amnesty.

18-19 February 1988

Cardinal Obando suspends negotiations when the government negotiating team does not immediately endorse his cease-fire proposal. The Cardinal proposes that the government grant a general amnesty, allow full freedom of expression, and reconsider forced military conscription in exchange for a 30-day truce. Rebel negotiators accept the proposal in principle. President Ortega tacitly endorses the plan, although he says that the Sandinistas would only grant amnesty and lower recruitment levels after a cease-fire was implemented. Both sides say they are willing to reconvene at any time.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~